

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN  
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud  
Issue Number 75 FEBRUARY 1993



REVEREND FATHER PETER M. RINALDI, SDB, WHO DIED ON  
27th FEBRUARY 1993. PHOTOGRAPHED DURING A VISIT TO  
THE SALESIAN COMMUNITY IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA IN  
1983

## FATHER PETER RINALDI, SDB - A TRIBUTE by REX MORGAN

No mere obituary or even a special issue of a little journal like *Shroud News* can do justice to the life and work of a man such as the Reverend Father Peter Rinaldi, SDB. One needs to read all his books, all his articles and all the literature about his life to gain a proper perspective of his contribution.

I had the privilege of being told in Australia from Italy within hours of his hospitalisation, "Fr Peter has had a heart attack and is in hospital on oxygen," and then when I was in Los Angeles on 28th February, "This fax is for a bad news: Fr Rinaldi is dead in the night."

I had heard the tidings in time to suspend the February issue of *Shroud News* and to change it to this Memorial Issue. The telephone network of the Shroud Crowd around the world hummed with the news all weekend and beyond, "The great man is dead."

Father Rinaldi died at the age of 80. His life as a Roman Catholic priest of the Salesian Order of Don Bosco and as the leading personality in Shroud studies for nearly sixty years is legendary. His activity on the Shroud front spans the entire period of modern study and discovery and awareness of the cloth. He had known Secondo Pia who first photographed the Shroud in 1898, opening up the whole modern age of study, as well as knowing all the major earliest participants, most of them, to us, only names in the literature: Barbet, Enrie, Tonelli, Vignon, Wuenschel, he knew them all. His long life had bridged the early twentieth century studies and the extraordinary period of scientific re-discovery of the Shroud in the 1970s. He was principal negotiator amongst all the parties in order to achieve access to the Shroud on several occasions for scientific appraisal. His unique situation of being an Italian American, totally fluent in both Italian and English, totally at ease in both cultures, as well as his close friendship with ex-King Umberto of Italy, the owner of the Shroud until his death in 1983, as well as his close association with and influence in the corridors of the Vatican and the Archdiocese of Turin, and his profound veneration for the Shroud since he first learned of it as an altar boy in 1925 and first saw it in 1933, all enabled him to be involved in virtually everything that was ever conceived or achieved in the modern history of the Holy Shroud.

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

As a man Rinaldi was one of the gentlest, kindest, paternal diplomats I ever met and I expect every sindonologist would say the same thing. No-one, however amateur or humble in their Shroud field of endeavour, received other than encouragement from this remarkable man regarded by many, indeed, as an unofficial saint.

He was able, with clear mind right to the end of his life, not only to grasp the full significance of any historical, artistic, technical or scientific advance in the study of the Shroud but to contribute actively to its discussion and the dissemination of information about it.

He was an active participant in most of the Shroud-related seminars, conferences and symposia until recent years but kept himself constantly abreast of every development, every researcher's views, every new book, every new article and paper. He was responsible for introducing the Shroud to the American public, who had hitherto known almost nothing about it. Indeed, knowledge of the Shroud was almost non-existent in the English speaking world until the publication in 1934 of his article "The Holy Shroud" in an American Catholic magazine, *The Sign*. This was reproduced in *Shroud News* (No 32), December 1985, and contains a remarkable description of the Shroud, its image and many observations on its study which are perfectly valid today. It is with extraordinary prescience that Rinaldi stated exactly sixty years ago, "Clearly, these images are not the work of an artist," and, "We will observe ... that to reproduce the conditions of the crucifixion is obviously impossible." and, "we are not dealing with any human production," points which have been proved again and again and again since 1933 with every new theory of image production by scientific means, each one of which continues to fail.

It was in the fifties that he set up, with Fr Wuenschel and Fr Adam Otterbein, the Holy Shroud Guild in New York. This organisation has done an enormous amount acting as the central clearing house for information and its dissemination ever since that time. The Guild has published numerous papers, journals, photographs and other material and is the guardian of the Wuenschel Collection, one of the most comprehensive accumulations of Shroud material in the world.

As the work of the Guild continued, augmented from time to time by researchers in other parts of America and Europe, a whole new episode in the Shroud's history began to take shape in the sixties and the seventies.

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute(cont'd)

Researchers from England such as Green, Willis, Vera Barclay, Cheshire and Ian Wilson exchanged their ideas with Rinaldi and the Holy Shroud Guild and in due course the young scientists Jackson and Jumper virtually pioneered the scientific examination of the Shroud and involved numerous other American scientists and researchers. At a famous conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in March 1977, the scene was set for the 1978 scientific examination of the Shroud.

As a key speaker at this eminent conference Father Rinaldi reminded the gathering that he had been present at all the previous examinations of the Shroud. There had been a congress on the Shroud in 1939 and another in 1950. In 1969 a Commission had studied the Shroud but had not been allowed to undertake hands-on experimentation. It had been an opportunity to photograph it, to observe it and to discuss ways it might be preserved. Additionally the commission was to be regarded as secret, a move which did little for the credibility of the Church. A series of direct tests was permitted by another Commission in 1973 and it was at this time that Gilbert Raes took his famous sample of the textile, Judica Cordiglia took colour photographs and that Max Frei began his work on the pollen deposits from the cloth. "Let us not minimise the work of the Commission," Rinaldi told the 1977 conference, "If nothing else, it proved that direct testing of the relic, too long ignored, is, to a great extent, where the future of much of the Shroud research lies ... the Turin cloth has only begun to yield some of its amazing secrets."

Immediately after the month long 1978 public exposition of the Shroud in Turin Cathedral, Rinaldi co-ordinated the co-operation required for the scientific programme acting as diplomat extraordinaire between his friend King Umberto, the authorities in Turin, the Pope and the scientists from America and other countries who formed the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) team in 1978. During the course of the exposition he also set up the special visit of the English woman Josie Woollam with Group Captain Leonard Cheshire who had, many years before, also with Rinaldi's help, taken her as a dying little girl to gain access to the Shroud in the belief that it could make her well. This in itself is a remarkable story re-told in *Shroud News* (No 72), the memorial edition to Cheshire.

In 1981 Rinaldi set up a series of meetings between Fr Adam Otterbein, representing the Holy Shroud Guild, Dr John Jackson and Dr Larry Schwalbe

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute(cont'd)

of STURP, Professor Luigi Gonella and Professor Giovanni Riggi of Turin and the various eminent church authorities in Italy. On 9th May the delegation met Cardinal Ballestrero, Archbishop of Turin to present their STURP findings to that date. They had an audience with Pope John Paul II arranged for 13th May and were in St Peter's Square ready to approach the Vatican when the assassination attempt on the Pope took place. Two days later Rinaldi took them to an audience in Portugal with King Umberto where further reports were made.

During 1983, amongst numerous other writings, he wrote a widely circulated paper in response to a series of Shroud-bashing articles by members of the Society of Sceptics who were generating quite a deal of publicity. I based a major article in *Shroud News* (No 16) on the contents of those articles.

My personal correspondence with Father Rinaldi began at the end of 1980 and continued until his last letter to me a few weeks before he died. I did not meet him until April 1983 when he was preaching at a retreat for the Salesian Order in Bollington, in northern England. It was on this occasion that he described the funeral of the late King Umberto the arrangements for which he was heavily involved in and which was reproduced in *Shroud News* (No 18).

Interestingly enough I had a further opportunity to meet Rinaldi the same year when he visited Melbourne, Australia. During these talks we discussed the speculation about another exposition of the Shroud in Holy Year, 1984. He was, as always, cautious about the possibility and in the end was right, such an exposition did not come to pass.

Following the death of King Umberto, whose family had owned the Shroud since 1453, there was considerable speculation whether the King's will which bequeathed the object to the Church of Rome, would be invalidated and the Shroud end up being the property of the Italian State or that it would be transferred to the Vatican. Rinaldi, not unexpectedly, was deeply involved in the negotiations over this issue and in the end the Shroud remained in Turin as was regarded as proper by all Turinese and by most sindonologists. Whilst Rinaldi never made claim to any achievement it was through his tireless work that this permanent residence of the Shroud in Turin became an accomplished fact through the issue of a formal document on 7th February 1984 signed by the Secretary of State for the Vatican decreeing that the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin became its official custodian and that it would remain in Turin.

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute(cont'd)

As Rinaldi summed up the situation at the time, "In the meantime the Shroud has entered a new era in its history. For the first time it is now in the keeping of the Church and no longer of a private family. Shroud friends and admirers will be forever grateful to the Savoy family whose reverence for the Relic has preserved it through the centuries but rejoice that so sacred an object is now owned and safely guarded by The Church.

In August the same year I met with Rinaldi in New York at a meeting of the Board of ASSIST, the Association of Scholars and Scientists for the Shroud of Turin. I had come from meetings in California with Ernest Brooks and Vernon Miller who had undertaken the principal photography work on the Shroud in 1978. I had also given a paper to an enthusiastic audience at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina and was therefore well tuned up for the exciting discussions held with the ASSIST delegates drawn from many disciplines. Rinaldi spoke with fervour about the possibility of further tests, the protocols for which ASSIST wanted to be instrumental in. During private discussions with Rinaldi he expressed the hope that I could, in my peripatetic role in Shroud studies, help to bring together the international community which had, at that time been involved in good deal of bickering over the Shroud. (This was to pale into insignificance after the 1988 C14 fiasco). It was during this visit to New York that I was given the opportunity to visit Father Rinaldi's own parish church at Port Chester. In this delightful church he has set up a permanent Shroud Shrine and in a side chapel are many Shroud related items including mosaics, stained glass windows, paintings and photographs associated with it. Behind the altar is a fullsize negative image and he kept there also a full size cloth facsimile of the Shroud.

In November 1985 Rinaldi celebrated his fiftieth year as a priest and there was a gathering in New York to which I was invited but unable to attend but had sent greetings from all Australian Shroud friends. There were several cordial exchanges of letters with him at this time and he was never averse to confiding in me exactly what was happening in Turin with plans for future testing, some of which did not please him on account of the apparent railroading going on from some quarters in America. As part of the acknowledgement of Rinaldi's golden jubilee I re-published his 1934 article *The Holy Shroud* referred to earlier. This was well received, particularly by readers in Australia and the Pacific.

## Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

In his regular communication through the Holy Shroud Guild Newsletter, Father Rinaldi indicated to the Shroud circle that important meetings had been held in Turin concerning future testing programmes and this, indeed, was the beginning of serious discussion about the carbon dating procedures which, in the event, did not occur until 1988 and then under such bizarre circumstances that most serious Shroud scholars have discounted their results and their validity. But it was Rinaldi who got the Cardinal to listen and ultimately to act.

Although the possible exposition for the Holy Year of 1984 did not occur, there was further speculation in Turin during 1986 that the next possibility would be the centenary of St John Bosco as a tribute to the work of Rinaldi himself with the Shroud. Professor Pierluigi Baima Bollone of Turin said, "There is an extraordinary possibility, being spoken about by the press, that another exposition of the Shroud might occur in the near future on the occasion of the celebrations for St Giovanni Bosco."

The next major shared occasion for me and Father Rinaldi was the Hong Kong Symposium on the Shroud which had been organised by Hong Kong based American archaeologist William Meacham and a vigorous local committee to coincide with my presentation of the Brooks Institute Photographic Exhibition of which I had been made custodian and had been touring it in South East Asia and Australasia. Father Rinaldi, along with distinguished Shroud researchers from the USA, Dr Alan Adler and Dr John Heller; Professor Luigi Gonella from Turin and Ian Wilson from England gathered in Hong Kong for both a series of lectures and seminars and to appear in person at the exhibition and on local radio and television shows. The Shroud obtained a great deal of exposure on this occasion both in Hong Kong and Macau. Indeed, more than 200,000 people saw the exhibition in Hong Kong alone. Rinaldi has written many books on the Shroud but I was surprised, and so was he, when, one morning at the book table, someone appeared with a stack of Rinaldi's *I saw The Shroud* in Chinese. These sold out in half an hour.

There were several closed private discussion sessions amongst the international authors present in Hong Kong at which we discussed plans for future testing and also heard the story of the American researcher who had clandestinely kept a piece of the Shroud after the 1978 investigation and had it privately carbon dated (to a date during the first millennium). We were sworn

## Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

to secrecy about this but Meacham later published the information through the French Press Agency.

In 1986 Father Rinaldi sent me the text of an important interview he gave shortly after the first carbon 14 conference had been held in Turin. It appeared in *Shroud Spectrum International* (No 21) and was repeated in *Shroud News* (No 39). On being questioned closely about the possibilities of the results of C14 testing and the implications of whatever result might be obtained Rinaldi pointed out that, "There are any number of factors that can influence its measurements and produce significant discrepancies." On being asked how he would react if the Turin relic turned out to be nothing more than a supremely clever, if unique, work of art, Rinaldi answered:

"Not differently from my good friend the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, though I confess I would be painfully disappointed if, for instance, the carbon 14 test were to date the Shroud to the ninth or tenth century after Christ. I have lived to see renowned men of science, medical men and art experts stand in awe before the Shroud. The fact is that, up to now, their findings have, if nothing else, bolstered the conviction that we have in the Shroud - in the words of Pope John Paul II - 'a most unusual and mysterious relic, a silent witness to the passion, death and resurrection of Christ'.

"I should like to emphasise the fact, however, that aside from what the scientists have said or may yet say about the Shroud, aside even from the question of authenticity, what drives me on my knees before the Shroud is its incomparable image. It is what touches the mind and heart of millions of people. It deeply touched Pope Paul VI who, pointing to a photograph of the face of the Man in the Shroud on his desk, said to me: 'Every time I look at it, my heart whispers, It is He! It is the Lord'. Paul Claudel, the great French poet, said beautifully, too: 'It is not just a portrait. It is His very presence!'

"Indeed, there is something uncanny about the Shroud's mysterious hold on people. I have seen it all over the world. Recently, in Hong Kong, nearly three hundred thousand persons paused, silent and pensive, before the luminous panels of a great photographic exhibit of the Shroud. Astonishingly, ninety per cent of them were non Christians. The marvel at this point is no longer what the Shroud is, but what it does. And the Shroud does it through the mysterious power of that face, so marred and so sublime in the serene majesty of death."

## Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

1988 saw the 50th edition of *Shroud News* a journal which Rinaldi had frequently praised over its years. He wrote the leading letter especially for this issue in which he gave his complimentary opinion of it. In the same issue we published his *Open Letter from Turin* in which he commented on the October "results" of the carbon 14 testing. In this he expressed the perplexity shared by anyone who has any knowledge at all of the Shroud, namely that the carbon test simply cannot be correct. Rinaldi was greatly disturbed during the lead-up to the testing in April of that year and confided in me more than once about his concerns over the way the authorities and the laboratories involved were behaving. In the event the test was far from satisfactorily conducted and there has been a great deal of controversy ever since. This continues as more and more scientific assessments of the procedures indicate that they were less than adequately controlled or conducted and there has even been suggestion of collusion and falsity. These matters distressed Father Rinaldi greatly and he always hoped for a renewed series of genuine tests.

In 1990, despite the 1988 announcement by Ballestrero that appeared to support the scientists' smug and subjective claim that C14 had "proved the Shroud a fake", Ballestrero was claiming that he did not accept the results as final or valid. He left it a bit late to say that. When Father Rinaldi had been in Turin for the ceremonies of beatification of his great-uncle, Fr Philip Rinaldi SDB, third successor to St John Bosco as head of the Salesian order, he had discussed further work on the Shroud with the Pope who had encouraged his continuing efforts. In the same year Ballestrero was suddenly removed from his custodianship of the Shroud and Archbishop Giovanni Saldarini was appointed.

Rinaldi continued negotiations with Saldarini and the Vatican on behalf of those who wanted to organise more testing programmes. The brilliant book by Marinelli and Petrosillo, *La Sindone Un Enigma alla Prova della Scienza* (which, unbelievably, has yet to be published in English despite its appearance in several European languages) was regarded as partly the influence over the Pope to allow negotiations to begin again.

In 1991 Rinaldi continued to report to the world what was happening to the Shroud. There was, for example, the account of the closure of the Guarini Chapel for repairs and speculation about the fate of the Shroud in these conditions. He was having difficulty getting information from the Archbishop

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

but by 1992 had succeeded in persuading him to visit the Shroud Centre in Turin and to examine the vast evidence for its serious study and to understand the vital need for proper preservation. Later, on 7th September 1992 a group of textile and other experts examined the Shroud again with a view to determining protocols for preservation. By the end of 1992 Rinaldi was in a more optimistic frame of mind when he reported: "I returned [from Turin] with a feeling that all is not gray in this post carbon 14 era of the Shroud. There are hopeful signs for the future." He had also reported his discussions with the custodian of the cathedral and the controller of building works and was very enthusiastic about an updated exhibition concerning the Shroud being prepared for the Cathedral. His report on this visit, published in the *Holy Shroud Guild News Letter* of December 1992 was to be his last.

Father Peter never neglected to write to any of his numerous correspondents. Although one was never certain whether to address him in Turin or New York he always caught up with his mail eventually and always wrote. Several people, like me, have said that their most recent letters from him began to indicate his own awareness that his life was not to be much longer. His heart and chest had been a trouble to him for a long time and in early February 1993 he suffered a mild stroke. His doctor told him he did not have long to live and so, about the middle of the month he made his last journey from New York to Rome and Turin.

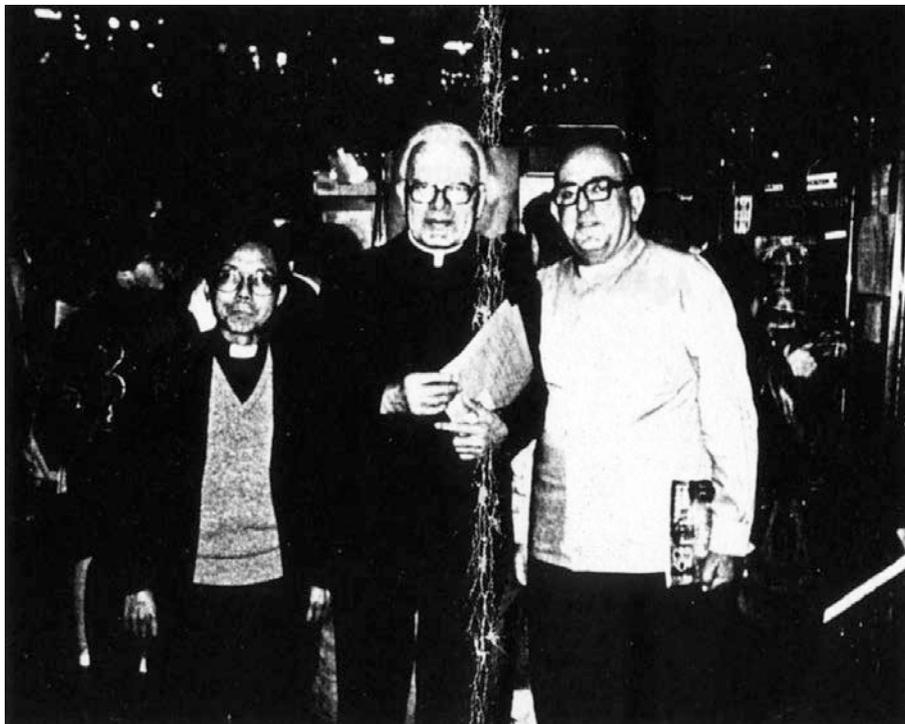
Several rumours have gained currency about those circumstances, one being that he was summoned to Rome by the Pope to assist in finding some way to re-assess the Shroud five years after Ballestrero had virtually announced it was medieval and brought some discredit upon the Church. Rinaldi is reported to have said to close confidantes that "The Holy Father has called me to Rome." Another version of that last pilgrimage is that he simply wanted to be in Turin for his death that he knew to be imminent and that his reference to the Holy Father was, in this case, to a call from God. He is also reported to have said that if he had died in Turin it would save the Salesian Order the expense of sending his body there from New York. In the event he was interred with his family rather than his brother Salesians.

So, after a quite remarkable life in which this man helped millions through his support of the study of the Holy Shroud and through his ministry as a devoted parish priest and through his numerous books, articles and lectures, this quiet, dignified, loving man has died.

### Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

On 27th February 1993 Peter Rinaldi joined that vast throng of his Shroud friends, Pia, Enrie, Vignon, Barbet, Umberto, Tamburelli, Borga, Cheshire, Volckringer and all the others, the only Shroud Group whose members know what they always sought to find out during their mortal lives and what we sindonologists who are left continue to seek: the true nature of that extraordinary piece of cloth rolled up in red silk in its silver reliquary in Turin Cathedral still waiting for that truth to be discovered and explained.

Father Peter Rinaldi did more towards that goal in the twentieth century than any other single person.



Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

**Five weeks before he died, Father Rinaldi's last letter to Rex Morgan**



Holy Shroud Guild Corpus Christi Church 136 South Regent Street Port Chester, NY 10573

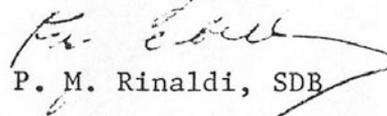
Jan. 15, 1993

Dear Rex and Family:

You were most truly kind to think of me at Christmas time. You have my own best wishes that the New Year may be filled with blessings for us all, for the cause of the Shroud, too.

You will continue to be in my thoughts and in my prayers...I count on yours, since I am having problems healthwise, and feel the burden of my age. Again, thank you and all blessings!

Cordially,

  
P. M. Rinaldi, SDB

Fr Peter Rinaldi - Tribute (cont'd)

ENTRIES OF TWO VERY SIGNIFICANT DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 1933  
FROM Fr PETER RINALDI'S PERSONAL DIARY

September 24, 1933 - A day to remember! The Holy Shroud was exposed today in the Cathedral of Turin. Ever since 1925, when I first served Mass in the royal chapel, I have been praying to see it. It will be exposed for three weeks. I expect to serve Mass at the altar of the exposition at least twice a week. When I asked our rector to allow me to do so, he said to me: "The Shroud means a lot to you, doesn't it?" It does!

October 14, 1933 - Last night I volunteered to act as interpreter for the English-speaking participants at a symposium on the Shroud. I was impressed by what some of the scientists said. A surgeon from Paris, Dr. Pierre Barbet, concluded his presentation with these words: "The best things on the Shroud have yet to be told. We are only scratching the surface of this incredible mystery." I am positively fascinated.

EXTRACTS from LETTERS to REX MORGAN from Fr PETER RINALDI

**Turin, 4th January 1981**

"Delighted the cause of the Shroud has so enthusiastic a champion in Australia"

**Turin, 9th March 1981**

"The American Broadcasting Company (one of three giant TV channels) had a crew in Turin last week filming a program on the Shroud. I was privileged to open all kinds of doors to them including the Cardinal's. For the first time this great and good man accepted to be interviewed on the subject of the Shroud. He was splendid! I'll get you a transcript of his words, eventually. It is what we have been hoping to hear from him since 1978!"

**New York, 22 March 1981**

"My hope is that we continue to keep in touch. You are doing a superb work for the cause of the Shroud in Australia. And have thus become an instrument of the Lord's Grace and Love."

**Turin, 26 August 1981**

"Father Otterbein told me about your and his visit to the Brooks Institute Exhibit. He spoke glowingly of you and your work. I so regret I was not with you."

**Turin, 28 January 1982**

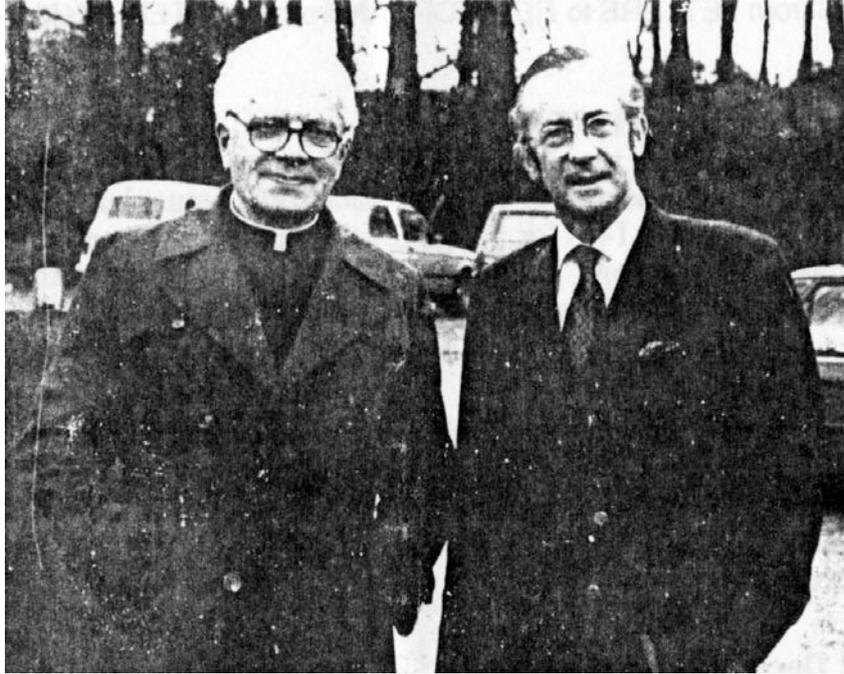
"A death in the family here (a brother, after a painful illness), added to my work and travels, did make things a bit difficult."

**Turin, 2 December 1982**

"Your splendid bulletins are a joy, and I can see you have established yourself as Australia's number one Shroud apostle. May you be strengthened to carry on your good work."

**Turin, 13 February 1983**

"A Shroud exposition is being rumoured during Holy Year, probably in Rome around Easter 1984."



Fr Peter Rinaldi with Rex Morgan on their first meeting near Manchester, England in April 1983



Fr Peter Rinaldi and Rex Morgan, Manchester 1983

EXTRACTS from LETTERS to REX MORGAN from Fr PETER RINALDI

**Hong Kong, 4 August 1983**

"I, too, have the fondest recollection of our meeting at Bollington, England. It was indeed a joy to meet both you and your son. I must leave Melbourne for Rome on September 14th for a high level meeting that weekend to discuss, among other things, the possibility of an exposition of the Shroud before the end of the Holy Year."

**Turin, 5 December 1983**

"I am with you in spirit today as your exhibit opens in Sydney. This is a crowning point in your outstanding activity to promote the Holy Shroud. I have no doubt it will be a great success! Your kind visit to Oakleigh, Melbourne, left me ever so pleased! It is possible we may still want the exhibit in Rome and Turin."

**Turin, 22 December 1983**

"I am thinking of you busily engaged in the great project of the Exhibit! I have had echoes of it from friends in Australia, and have no doubt it will be a great success."

**Turin, 20 October 1984**

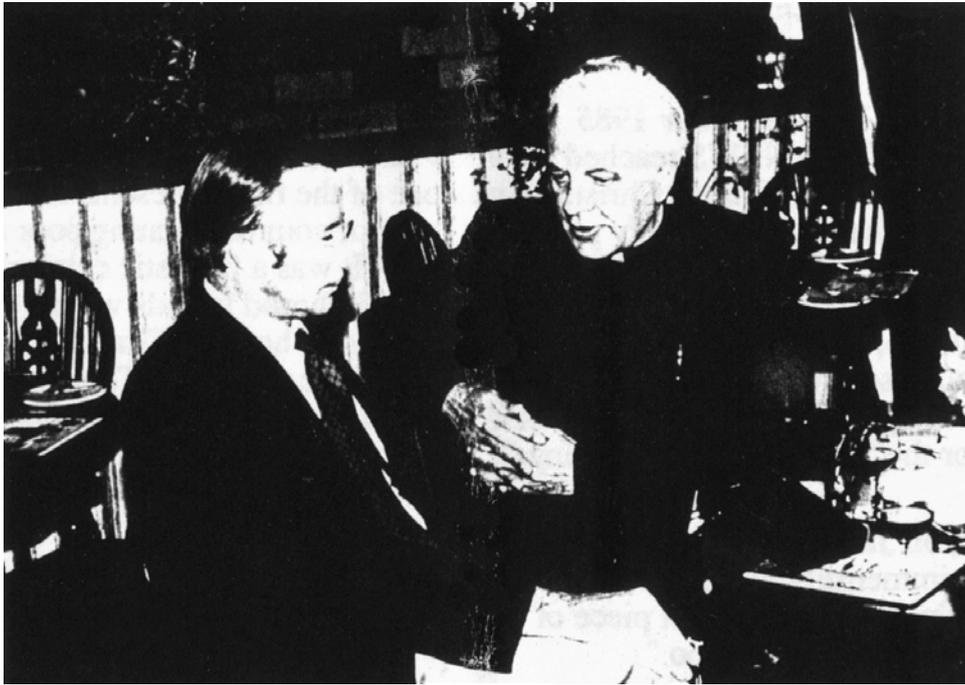
"Note enclosed summary of notes I made on a recent, important visit to the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin. It is to be kept confidential for the time being. There is a moving away from the earlier stress on a 'united front' on the matter of proposals for a forthcoming new round of tests on the Shroud. This means we may have to revise our strategy."

**New York, 20 November 1984**

"Dear Rex, as often as I think of you, I thank the Lord Who brought you to His Shroud. You have literally done wonders for the cause! Truly you have been an instrument of Providence! For me who over fifty years ago had dreams and visions of great things to come for the Shroud (see September issue of SPECTRUM), you stand tall and great in the realization of those dreams. And I thank the Lord for you!"

**Turin, 11 March 1985**

"The permanent exhibit in the Cathedral is in the making. It will be a great addition to the church that houses the Shroud."



Fr Rinaldi and Rex Morgan in a restaurant in Manchester, England, 1983



Fr Peter makes a point during an interview in Melbourne, Australia, 1983

**EXTRACTS from LETTERS to REX MORGAN from Fr PETER RINALDI****New York, 28 November 1985**

"Your SHROUD NEWS reached me a few days before my Golden Jubilee celebration here at Corpus Christi. It was one of the finest presents I could receive for the occasion! Only you could think of commemorating poor me via SHROUD NEWS. A million thanks, Rex. It was a fantastic celebration which left me dazed and overwhelmed. Several Shroud friends were present, too, and you would have been overjoyed to hear the Shroud mentioned so often during the various events of the program. Things are on the move again for the Shroud. This is confidential, Rex. A new round of tests for the Shroud is in the making."

**Turin, 30 January 1986**

"I was immensely pleased with the draft of your Heaphy book. I agree with Frank Tribbe: 'It is the best piece of writing on the Shroud in 1985!' Father Fossati is enthusiastic, too."

**Turin, 18 April 1986**

"The memorable experience in Hong Kong left me pleased and grateful beyond words. The events had you as one of their main architects. You and William Meacham are right on top of my gratitude list. I am now anxious to bring you up to date on the latest Shroud developments as perceived here in Turin. For the time being, this should remain confidential. With all the Shroud has meant to you, with all you have done, it is only right that you should know what goes on. There are other disturbing factors ... the situation at the moment is far from good."

**New York, 15 December 1986**

"My interview with the Turin diocesan weekly (enclosed) was actually inspired by Cardinal Ballestrero who feels the people at large must be prepared for whatever results the carbon 14 test will reveal. Let me know what you think of it. We are facing some problems with regard to the forthcoming tests."

**New York, 24 February 1987**

"We are busy setting up preparations for the forthcoming tests ... there are roadblocks on the way"



Fr Rinaldi with Rex Morgan by the statue of St John Bosco at the Salesian House in Melbourne, Australia, 1983



Fr Peter Rinaldi shows Rex Morgan his Shroud Shrine at Corpus Christi Church, Port Chester, New York in 1984

EXTRACTS from LETTERS to REX MORGAN from Fr PETER RINALDI

**Turin, 9 August 1987**

"Thank you for all the good news! A South East Asia Shroud Research Center, no less! Your Shroud initiatives are positively astounding! We could use a man like you in Turin! Incidentally, we have been plagued by roadblocks, both on the diplomatic and funding fronts. More delays are inevitable. But we are confident the program of tests - the carbon 14 included - will be held. Both the Vatican and the Archbishop are committed to move ..."

**New York, 27 May 1988**

"Things are quiet at the moment on the Shroud front. Is it the calm before the storm? I know for a fact that Arizona's University laboratory has the results of the test. Some five or six men are in on the results but are pledged to secrecy until the Oxford and Zurich labs have processed their samples which should be within the month of June. Bernard Levin's piece in the London *Times* is indicative of the storm to unleash when the results will be published. The Cardinal here is aware, too, though I marvel at the serenity of spirit with which he is facing even the worst of news. The results, whatever they will be, will undoubtedly revive the fray between those who sided with the three-labs protocol and those who clamoured that the Pontifical Academy of Sciences' seven labs protocol should have been followed."

**Turin, 25 July 1988**

"These are troubled times for the Shroud, almost agonising ... I am constantly called over the phone by people who simply cannot admit even the remotest possibility that the carbon 14 might just turn out negative for the Shroud. Confronted by a barrage of rumours, Turin is almost in a state of shock. 'It just can't be,' people say. The Cardinal is upset by the rumors which, he told me the other day, bring discredit to the whole project. We thought we could trust those scientists,' he added. Yet his position is the same as he has ever held. The Shroud does not have to be a 'relic' of Christ. It is first and foremost and will continue to be the most impressive 'representation' of the Saviour's sufferings and death. Dear Rex, should we adopt this position are we going to fight the C-14 results? Let me know your mind. Ciao for now, dear friend."



Fr Peter discusses his full-length cloth reproduction of the Shroud in Port Chester, New York, 1984

EXTRACTS from LETTERS to REX MORGAN from Fr PETER RINALDI

**Turin, 9 September 1988**

"We are now advised that the results may be announced sooner than expected, before the end of September. For a while, most people expected the Pope might be the one to do so ... he came to Turin last weekend for the celebration of St John Bosco's centennial but, of course, the Shroud was not as much as mentioned."

**Turin, 5 October 1988**

"There is no question in my mind that the Shroud image will come again under the most intensive scrutiny by the experts."

**Monferrato, 14 November 1988**

"My longest and most troubled stay in Italy will come to a close in just about a month. Cardinal Ballestrero has had reasons to regret what he said at the press conference on October 13. Sadly he made the point that since the Church had trusted the scientists who had recommended and effected the carbon 14 tests, it had no choice but accept their verdict. Since then, people both in the religious and scientific world have been up in arms. Mistakes in the test's procedure and, too, the unprofessional behaviour of the scientists involved in the test have been stressed over and over again."

**New York, 14 May 1989**

"I'll be in Turin in a week to meet with the new Archbishop. I have a full portfolio of reasons with which he should be persuaded to move on a new phase of Shroud research ... but if he does decide to move it will be slow motion for sure!"

**New York, 18 December 1991**

"... happy memories of days gone by, and the inspiration your leadership in Shroud activity has brought to so many of us. You must know that all is rather quiet on the Turin front. The new Cardinal is reluctant to move, and his promises remain just ... promises. I feel the burden of my age, and can only be moderately active."

**New York, 15 January 1993**

"You will continue to be in my thoughts and in my prayers ... I count on yours, since I am having problems health-wise, and feel the burden of my age."



In Hong Kong in 1986, Fr Peter Rinaldi with Rex Morgan, Director of the Shroud Photographic Exhibit



Fr Rinaldi farewells Victoria Morgan-Harper who assisted with the Hong Kong exhibition of the Shroud Photographic Exhibit

*Shroud News* began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of three books on the subject of the Holy Shroud (*Perpetual Miracle*, *Shroud Guide*, and *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ*) started putting together a few notes about current developments in Sindonology (the study of the Shroud of Turin) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

The bulletin now reaches subscribers all over the world and it is written and produced and the information disseminated more quickly than most news-sheets of a similar kind or the more prestigious Shroud publications. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive network of personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent traveller overseas and this has given him the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research at first hand. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has met with numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He brought the world-famous Photographic Exhibition created by Brooks Institute, California, to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Macau and Canada and during those tours it attracted more than 600,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks Institute to the non-profit making organisation, The South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) of which Morgan is President. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the USA based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) and was a member of the scientific team which conducted environmental experiments in a Jerusalem tomb in 1986 (The Environmental Study of the Shroud in Jerusalem). He has made several original contributions to the research of the Shroud, has presented papers at international conferences, has written many articles and given numerous broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and the publication has been described many times as one of the best available. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we still request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. *Shroud News* comes out six times per year. The USA subscription is \$US 6 (posted surface mail) or \$US 12 (posted airmail). Postage to other countries varies. ALL back issues are available at \$1 (US or Aust) each plus postage charges except the famous 50th issue which is \$3 plus post.

Please encourage those of your acquaintance to take out their own subscription rather than borrow your copies since the more genuine subscribers we have the more we can improve the bulletin and the longer it is likely to survive.

All information and opinion in this newsletter is published in good faith. It is edited (and mainly written) by Rex Morgan and published by:

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